

VAMPIRELLA

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SPECIAL
5th
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

VAMPIRELLA
HER BLOOD-RED
QUEEN
OF HEARTS
BECOMES
AN ANCIENT
EGYPTIAN
RULER
IN
"VAMPIRE
OF THE NILE!"

ALSO
"PUPPET
PLAYER!"
MURDEROUS
MANIKINS
PLOT A GHASTLY
REVENGE
AGAINST MAN!

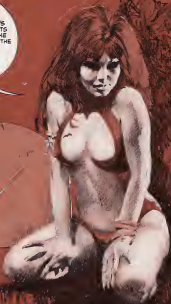
SEVEN
CHILLING
CLASSICS!

WELCOME TO THE
WEIRD AND WONDERFUL
WORLD OF VAMPIRELLA!

THAT'S ME
VAMPIRESS FROM
BEYOND THE STARS,
WEAVER OF STRANGE
AND OFTEN CHILLING
TALES...

AND THIS IS MY SPECIAL
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!
WITHIN THESE PAGES I HAVE
BROUGHT TOGETHER THE WORLD'S
GREATEST WRITERS AND ARTISTS
TO PRESENT SEVEN TALES OF THE
MYSTERIOUS, THE UNHOLY AND THE
DAMNED. TALES OF FANTASY
TALES OF EVIL. TALES OF
HORROR. TALES THAT WILL
TEST THE BOUNDARIES OF
YOUR IMAGINATION.

MINE IS
A WORLD OF
RAW AND
WONDER. NOW
I INVITE YOU TO
SHARE IT WITH
ME...





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VAMPIRELLA

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CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS: Warren Publishing Co. guarantees the delivery and satisfaction of all items advertised in this issue. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ives, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.



Readers welcome the return of Jeff Jones!

Chalk up another success for everybody at Warren, with the May issue of VAMPIRELLA.

The Flaxman Loew/Jose Gonzalez team produced a good story in "The Sultans Revenge." It was clever, using a character from the previous issue as the antagonist in this one. Loew seems to have mastered the art of the twist ending, and Gonzalez did exceptional illustration, capturing the mood of the Oriental kingdom and the demons lurking in the crypt.

The rest of the issue was also better than usual. *Pantha* is starting to get more complex as the probes the mystery of her childhood. Rich Cerben's art on "Top to Bottom" was perfect for the moody setting, and the Chinese vampire in "Barfly" was a welcome change. Perhaps John Jacobson could be persuaded to do a sequel?

One final note: I am glad to hear that Archie Goodwin is back. It's been too long an absence without his skills. Now if he can only find the time to write a few scripts.

NORMAN E. DAVIDSON
Union, N.J.

I have enjoyed reading your magazine for two years now, and every issue is more fantastic than the last! All of the artists in Warren magazines are great!

The last few covers have been excellent, especially the ones with VAMPIRELLA on the cover! But with all that excellence, there are still flaws.

For one thing, you need more series every issue, and more Gothic stories like "Quivering Shadows."

You should also bring back VAMPIRELLA'S FLAMES, and possibly some pinup pages of VAMPIRELLA in various costumes. How about more posters inside the magazine and not always on the back cover?

Also, now that you have Archie Goodwin back, how about letting him script some VAMPIRELLA stories?

Please consider some of the improvements and a great magazine may become even better!

STEVE JACOBS
Modest Town, Va.

What happened to your legs in the *Scarlet Letters* logo? You seem to be all shriveled up! Are you in a state of transformation or is something in there with you?

WILLIAM NEWBY
San Diego, Cal.

I'll never tell.

I really enjoy your magazine. Your art is excellent and the stories show careful thought is involved in the writing. Jose Gonzalez, unlike other artists, breathes life into his drawings. And Flaxman Loew shows a subtlety of plot not often found in horror magazines!

NOLA FRAME
Granada Hills, Calif.

The coming out of VAMPIRELLA from a tongue-in-cheek hostess to the star of her own series in 1971 was one of the big events in graphic literature in the last ten years. Even after Archie Goodwin retired from the series, VAMPIRELLA still inspired its writers to rise to the challenge, producing intriguing, powerful stories.

Until Flaxman Loew. It seems he has reduced the star of the series to a bit part, her only contribution to the story in #34 being to kill Suil. As for the rest of the stories in that issue, they were so devoid of depth and purpose that it is impossible to even comment on them.

Maybe I'm being unreasonable to expect VAMPIRELLA to metamorphose overnight, but so far the only change I've noticed is the name Archie Goodwin in the credits.

LYNN SCHARBOW
San Francisco, Calif.

I see that we have another controversy brewing in the letters pages. Four different readers in VAMPIRELLA #33 voice the complaint that our heroines have become a bit glib with their affections!

This hasn't bothered me much. She is, after all, currently unattached. And it seems unreasonable that a woman as attractive as VAMPIRELLA should be lacking self-respect for very long. Certainly the few involvements she has had do not make her promiscuous. In fact, this seems to compliment your magazine's mature attitude.

The subject of VAMPIRELLA's love life has always been handled with intelligence and good taste, avoiding excessive amounts of either romanticism or eroticism. Still a variety of lovers seems to trouble many readers. So Adam Van Helsing will eventually demand a return to VAMPIRELLA's steady boy friend. But even their past relationship was interrupted by a brief fling with Dracula. Sweden can only anticipate more of the same.

Anyway, Adam or no Adam, I can hardly wait to see VAMPIRELLA in color again.

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Ohio

Your issues are getting better and better, and issue #34 was great! Jeff Jones' work on the inside front cover was superb, and I'm glad to see Felix Mas has returned! One thing though: You said that Frank Frazetta was back, but all I have seen by him was one cover which also appeared on a paperback! When do we see some new stuff!

HUDSON HILL
Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Frank is about as hard to pin down as yours truly, Hudson.

The highlight of VAMPIRELLA #34 was the color story, "Black and White Vacuum to Blues." Doug Moench, Estaban Maroto, and Bill DuBay really outdid themselves in an intelligent, thought-provoking story that did not rely on monsters or gore.

JAMES REASONER
Azle, Texas

VAMPIRELLA #34 was excellent. From "Carnival of Death" to the moodily illustrated tale, "Cold Cuts," it was just great but there are two things I'd like to comment on.

First was Archie Goodwin's sensible editorial on black and white comics.

The main trouble is that too many horror films have been done in color. Of course, there is nothing wrong with that. Hammer and American International have done it quite successfully. But black and white is perhaps the only way to do truly moody horror stories. I have heard it on said that Hitchcock's *PSYCHO* was never meant for color and I concur. The shower scene would have been totally ruined in color. Mario Bava's *BLACK SUNDAY* with lovely Barbara Steele (now there would be a beautiful movie VAMPIRELLA!) is another classic black & white fright film. And let's not forget *NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD*.

Black & white can sometimes be more effective in portraying an atmosphere of horror than vivid color!

Secondly, the little item on page four leads me to believe that you are going to pit VAMPIRELLA against a female foe. It's about time! You could even use one of your already existing characters such as *Pantha* or *Lusana*.

Also, I hope you have plans to bring back *Ching Shih*, the Chinese vampire in John Jacobson's "Barfly."

RAYMOND BOWE
Somerville, Mass.



"The Carnival of Death," the chilling tale of the night the graves surrendered their dead brought accolades to writer FLAXMAN LOEW and artist GONZALEZ!

"Fleur may rival VAMPI!"

I want to thank you for putting out all the Warren magazines. Each one is a great achievement in adult graphics and storytelling. But I have a question concerning VAMPIRELLA.

Why does she wear the same costume issue after issue? Our girl looked ravishing in #31, with a gown and a different hair style. Please have more of that!

JOHN CRANE
Willingboro, N.J.

Flaxman Loew's VAMPIRELLA stories have a dull similarity to each other, except for different scenery and supporting characters. I hardly have to read beyond the first page because I already know what will happen in addition, he overuses words like cosmic passion and delicious. VAMPIRE herself is often superfluous, contributing only bits of dialogue and some blood-drawing.

However, I liked his story in #33, especially the ending. I would like to see Flaxman Loew use his talents on non-VAMPIRELLA stories, for he can write a good story, but still can't handle VAMPIRELLA and Penzagon's characters the way they should be.

ANN NICHOLS
Williamsport, Md.

Just picked up VAMPI #34 and I have a couple of things to point out:

The cover, clever and well done, though it could have been more detailed. The full length of our lovely VAMPIRELLA was great, except that

the face had lost some of the cool mystique that makes VAMPI so sensuous. But look at the hair in the other! True talent. Not really Enrich at his best, but Enrich nonetheless. I was skeptical as to whether I should even open to the letters page this issue. Once again the main talk was of a full length saga for VAMPIRELLA. It seems that once a topic is brought up, it stays around for months afterward.

I realize that a longer story would be a strain on artist Jose Gasquez and the writer, but if it were held back one or two months it might be worth it.

How about seeing Dracula again? He's long since left the pages of EERIE and would be welcomed with open arms by most.

DANNY SCOTTHAS
Drama, Maine

At least one of your wishes will be granted, Danny. A new Dracula series will be coming your way soon.

I just bought VAMPI #33 and the art is getting better and better! The color story was great and Rich Corben made the best possible use of it!

EDWARD REICHENBACH
Paris, France

I have just finished reading VAMPIRELLA #33. I would like to see Panda dropped, and the VAMPI stories made longer. Analeen's art is good, but the stories are only fair.

"Sultana's Revenge" was excellent. What better punishment could be suffered by someone like the Sultana than to become so obese. I am glad to see that VAMPIRELLA is not being treated as just another she-vampire, but as a unique and human creature.

KURT KALISH
Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Your covers are the most appealing on the stands because of talented men like Sanjivan and Enrich.

Warren magazines never come to fill me with awe at the sheer brilliance they unfold with each passing issue.

With VAMPIRELLA #30, you've had a steady roll call of stellar talents: Rich Corben, Frank Frazetta, Jeff Jones.

Warren gives us dazzling color, nice pastel overlaid letters pages, informative articles, excellent editorials. The covers are top notch and the art and stories are usually just as good! What more could anyone ask?

ANTHONY DALEY
Chicago, Ill.

Issue #34 was great, virtually exploding with brilliant story and art.

In particular I enjoyed "The Black and White Vacuum Blues" story by Doug Mench and Edelean Marolo. The story was relevant and presented with depth and insight. A clown could not have been a better choice for a lead character. Bill Duffay's color also added a great deal to the story.

"Miranda" was equally nice, and the story particularly touching... and it seems like you've got a winner on your hands with Fleur!

How about bringing back some of the artists who helped make VAMPIRELLA great in the past? People such as Billy Graham and Neal Adams would be a welcome sight on your pages once again, and possibly some newcomers like Jim Starlin!

Anyway, keep up the good work!

L. DETRICH ADONIS
St. Croix



Readers hail Fleur as the most exciting new creation since VAMPIRELLA! John Jacobson and Ramon Torrents are already putting their awesome talents to more exciting episodes of this wonderful, whimsical witch!

Being an aspiring artist and a lover of comic art, I always look to Warren for originality, creativity, and sheer beauty. However, I am inclined to agree with Gary Kimer's letter in VAMPI saying that the early issues of CREEPY and EERIE are your most outstanding.

I find the work of three of your present artists to be totally inspiring: Frank Frazetta, Fernando Hernandez, and Rich Corben. I for one feel that Corben's fantastically bizarre style is deserving of better stories that you have been giving them. Stories that better put to use his bizarre style.

DICK BOND
Dayton, Ohio

"From the Spain of Legend" in VAMPIRELLA #34 was outstanding! The story and art were both well executed, and the ending had twists that made it fresh, unpredictable, and worthwhile. Fleur is already a rival for VAMPIRELLA.

But what happened to Panda? I'd also like to know how she manages to keep her pants on when all else fails! The "car" certainly doesn't wear them, so why do pantaloons when she reverts back to her human self?



RICK MEIDER
Maynard, Mass.

Panda isn't gone, Rick. She'll be alternating with Fleur for a backup spot in my magazine.

SUMMER'S HERE! GET INTO THE SWIM OF THINGS!

And you wouldn't want to see our hamlet heroine be lonely, would you? You can start by sending her some mail to help her keep her cool! Don't let VAMPI's mailbox suffer a dry spell! Send your comments and suggestions right away to:

SCARLET LETTERS
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 East 32nd Street
New York, NY 10016



VAMPIR'S VAULT

THE STORY AND SOUL OF FERNANDO FERNANDEZ THE MAN WHO IS WHAT HE DRAWS



"Whether the art is 'fine' or whether it is commercial," he began, "is of little importance to the true creator. What he does care about is his work itself, and how it is a reflection of his inner self."

"A man's art is where he feels...where his breaths. He is driven on, always wanting to improve, to go on seeking the self which he does not understand."

"He keeps looking for his identity, which is as vital a part of himself as food and water."

"And this, quite honestly, is not only my story, but that of anyone who has ever sought to create art in any form."

His point is a valid one, which suggests that it is not really important when or where an artist was born, or where he went to school. For art, as nature, eggs as on, beyond our control. One can only suspect that this is the way it was meant to be. Without this drive, we would all be content to do second-best.

And, we think, Fernando's dedication is reflected in his exceptional work!



Nowhere has Fernando's idea of art as a mirror of life been more evident than in the sensitive renderings of "Rendezvous," *Vampirella* #35.

WARREN'S BEST WRITERS AND ARTISTS TEAM TO GIVE YOU A SPECIAL TREAT! ON VAMPIR'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!

Welcome to the Fifth Anniversary issue of *VAMPIRELLA*. As you will see in the pages that follow, we've tried our best to make the contents of this issue appropriate to the special occasion. For example, we feature this month two full-color sections, showcasing the masters of illustrated fantasy. There is Fernando Fernandez' disturbing vision of the future, where children have indeed invented the earth...and Jesse Dube's equally unimpressive tale about monstrous man-creepies. In addition, we again honor many readers' requests to feature a new artist on *VAMPIRELLA*. Flaxman Lowe and Jesse Ortiz recount one of the most startling surprises in the continuing adventures of our blood-queen. Plus...four more exciting tales of chilling horror and haunting mystery!

We think it is only fitting that our readers share in this anniversary celebration, since it is they who have made *VAMPIRELLA* one of the most successful creations in comicdom! And with five years behind us, we are still only beginning...

In the forthcoming months, there will be more surprises, more amazing adventures with Vampi, the mysterious Fleur, and the feline huntress Pantha...plus the long-awaited return of Count Dracula to these pages!

Next issue: a special retrospective of *VAMPIRELLA*'s finest! But first...enjoy the thrills of this unique Fifth Anniversary issue!

THE CREATIVE MAN DUBE: INSIDE A BIG CITY EDITOR

Commercial art *stinks*...or so they say. They're being the perists, those creators who paint and draw for their own satisfaction alone. But artists must eat, and this belief dictates that one must sell his talents to those who will buy. This situation, quite obviously, does not permit a creative individual his fullest and most rewarding means of expression. He must please the masses first and his own sense of aesthetics second. And, to an extent, this situation applies to the creative people behind the Warren Magazines. In this column, we will chip away the veneer of commercialism and find out what sort of work our people most like to do. What are their projects and dreams...ideas and ideas. In the future, we'll feature Leo Sammons, Esteban Morato, Paul Neary, and others, for this initial installment, it seemed only proper to begin with our own resident Creator.



To his intimates, William Bryan Dube is called nothing more imposing than "Dube." He can write and he can draw. You've seen his work with in these pages.

Ideally, the Warren editor of 3 years standing would like nothing better than to have a cottage in Maine, raise enough food to satiate his family's appetite, and spend the rest of the time drawing a comic strip of his own invention.

Dube's comic strip work is much unlike his Warren art. And it's all the more touching in that Dube resembles the caricatures he creates.

So, for the masochistic, here is a sample of work that may cause you soon grace your daily newspaper...The type of work Dube likes to do!



VAMPIRELLA

AS THE SAGA OF THE DELICIOUS DRAKULONNE CONTINUES TO UNFOLD, CERTAIN MYSTERIES BECOME MORE CLEAR, OTHERS REMAIN...

WHY, WE ASK, IS THE ADORABLE VAMPIRELLA STUCK WITH PINDRAGON, THAT VERGEBE ALCOHOLIC WHOSE END IS ONLY TOO PREDICTABLE?

THAT IS A MAJOR MYSTERY, AND IT WILL BE RESOLVED WITHIN THESE PAGES. A LARGER QUESTION REMAINS. WHAT LIES BEHIND VAMPIRELLA'S FORMER EXISTENCE ON THE VAMPIRE PLANET DRAKULON... AND WHY, WHEN DRAKULON DIED, WAS SHE DRAWN TO EARTH?

TO FIND THE ANSWER, WE FOLLOW THE HEROINE FROM DRAKULON TO THE ANCIENT CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION THAT LIES ATWART THE RIVER NILE... TO EGYPT.

TO MEET...

The VAMPIRE OF THE NILE



THE LASCIVIOUS DELIGHTS OF MORROW-EVING
ALEXANDRIA HAVE FALLEN A LITTLE FLAT
WITH VANDELLEA AND PENDRAGON...



LATER, PENDY...WHO HAS PER-
HAPS INHALED TOO DEEPLY OF
WHAT HE CHOICES TO DESCRIBE
AS THE DISTILLED ESSENCE OF
GENERAL GRANA... DRIVES THEM
TO THE AIRPORT AND HOME...



THEY EXPERIENCE A WRENCHING ASPECT
OF MATTER AND SPIRIT...AND RISE
TOGETHER IN THE ASTRAL AIR...

THEY ARE UNDER THE SAME SKY, THE SAME SEA OF IRIDESCENT BLUE LIPS
UNDER THE TALL TOWERS OF THE ANCIENT CITY... BUT ALL IS CHANGED!

THIS IS NOT THE EGYPT OF ANTIQUITIES... OF RUINS AND DUSTY
MUSEUMS... ALL IS NEW...





I HAVEN'T SEEN POLEMY SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN TOGETHER... IN ACCORDANCE WITH ROYAL CUSTOM, WE WERE MARRIED BY POKY... BUT HE WAS A LOATHSOME LITTLE BOY!

MY QUEEN, IF THE GODD OF THE SLAVE MARKETS ANYTHING TO GO BY, HE'S GROWN INTO A LOATHSOME LITTLE MAN!

THEY GO OUT INTO THE BLINDING SUNLIGHT OF THE EGYPTIAN DAY.



AND HE LIVED OUT HIS DAYS IN THAT hideous TEMPLE IF HE HAD BUILT OVER THERE... WHERE I MUST WAIT HIM TONIGHT!

WHAT DOES POLEMY DO IN THAT HATED PLACE? WHAT HORRORS AWAIT HE THERE TONIGHT?

MY QUEEN HE CLAIMS THAT THE TEMPLES DEDICATED TO AMUN... BUT I'M PRETTY SURE, IF THE NOBLE SUN GOD KNEW HALF OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE, HE'D BLAST THE WHOLE LAND OF EGYPT INTO THE Nile!



POLEMY'S ROCK-HEAN TEMPLE FROD THEM ACROSS THE SHIMMERING EXpanse OF HOT SAND...



I MUST GO THERE ALONE... AND FACE WHATEVER hideous FATE AWAITS ME!

THE DUSKY WINGS OF NIGHT, HE WHISPERS ABOUT THE LAND OF THE PHILIPPI. THE DOKTOR QUEEN, WHILE IN A LATENT REMORSE, IS TO BECOME VAMPIRELLA, APPROACHING THE DREAD FUTURE OF HER BROTHER-HUSBAND, PETERBURY!



PRIESTS OF AN UNWALLED CULT GREET HER, IMMOBILIZED HER SLENDER WRISTS WITH FETTERS OF BEATEN GOLD...



IN SILENCE, SHE IS BORN INTO A ROCK-HEAVY SEPULCHER AND SNACKLED TO A LOFTY COLUMN.



THIS NIGHT, O QUEEN, YOU WILL TRULY BECOME THE SAVIOUR OF YOUR LORD AND MASTER, THE VAMPIRE-KING OF THE NILE!

AS SHE WATCHES ALONE, THE VAMPIRE-KING RISES FROM HIS TOMB!



ROBERTLY WILL BOTH LAUD AND DEFILE MY NAME AS THAT OF THE TRUE BEGETTER OF VAMPIRISM! THIS IS MY DARK RELIGION, O MY QUEEN! THIS IS THE CULT THAT SHALL CAST DOWN MYN ANONYMA HIMSELF! NOW I WILL SCORGE MYSELF ON YOUR BLOOD...

...AND YOU WILL BECOME LIKE ME! A VAMPIRE!

N-NO!



IT IS FROM THIS TIME THAT THE LEGEND OF ELEGANTIA, SWITCHING SERVANT OF OLD NILE TRULY BEGAN! SOME THE FISHING GIRL, IN HER PLACE, THE TIMELESS ENCHANTRESS WHOM ONE CANNOT WITHER, NOR CUSTOM STALE...



REAL SHE TRAILS AND CHASES ASIDE IT ALL... THE EARTH SHAKING JOURNEY WITH JULIUS CAESAR IS WORTHY OF A PASSING REFERENCE...



THE BEGINNING OF THE END COMES WITH THE REVEALING OF THE PRODIGIOUS LAD ANTONY, AS SHE GOES TO HIM IN HER EMBROIDERED DRESS, ONE LOOK, AND ANTONY IS HER SLAVE FOR ETERNITY.



ANTONY AND MARY LOVE SPREAD IN ALL TIME, IT WAS A USUALLY SHORT-LIVED ENCOUNTER, BUT ETERNITY WAS IN THEIR LIPS AND EYES, AND SLUGS ON THEIR BROWS.



TEMPTATION IS NEVER
FARE FROM THE
BLOOD-LUSTING MIND
OF THE BEAUTIFUL
VAMPIRE...!

WHILE HE
SLEEPS, I'LL
GORE HIM...
NOT ENOUGH
TO MATTER...



YOU ARE
RESTLESS,
MY LOVE...

NOT
RESTLESS...



...THIRSTY!

STONY LAUNCHES GIFTS UPON
HER...KISSING AND PROMISING!
BUT IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT
SEEM TO GET TO A WOMAN...

HE'S BEEN TRAINED TO TEAR THE
THROAT OUT OF ANY GLAVE
WHO SHOWS THE
LEAST SIGNS OF
MISBEHAVING!

YES A
DARLING,
I SHALL
CALL HIM
ANUBIS!



YOU AND I
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER, MY
ANUBIS!



THE FLESHBAGS OF TONGUES ARE ALREADY GATHERED TOGETHER!
IT NEEDS ONLY THE SPARK TO IGNITE THEM. IT HAPPENS
DURING A FEAST...

GOOSE!
SORRY, O MY QUEEN!

CLIMBY OFFAL!

ANUBIS!



KILL MY
PET!

No!

THE CURSED HICORNS
ARE ALREADY
QUESTING FOR THE
SOFTNESS OF THE
SLAVE'S THROAT... BUT
EGYPT'S QUEEN
HAS STRUNG
FORWARD...



MARK ANTONY'S TIME-
LESS LOVE TURNS TO
HORROR AND
REVELSION!

ANTONY!...
I... I CAN
EXPLAIN...

YOU ARE
AN OBSCURITY
OF EVIL!
YOU ARE
DEATH IN ITS
MOST
HIDEOUS
FORM!





FORGIVE!
DOES ONE
FORGIVE A
LOATHSOME
SERPENT?

MARK ANTONY THROWS HIMSELF UPON HIS
SWORD IN THE TIME-HONORED
ROMAN FASHION!



I AM
DYING...
EGYPT...
DYING!

FROM CIRCLES
WANDERING LUST TO
QUINCHED AND TONGUE-
SCORCHED BY THE FUROR
PASSION OF GRIEF,
SHE FOLLOWS THE
CORPSE TO HER, NEED-
LESS OF THE HEADY
SCENT OF THE
FRESH-SHED
BLOOD...



SOME... AND ALL
THAT'S LEFT
ME IS...
VENGEANCE!

ACCOMPANIED BY HER FAVORITE SLAVE,
SHE GOES TO THE DREAD TEMPLE WHERE
HER YOUTHFUL INNOCENCE HAD BEEN
TORN AND RENT FROM HER...



PTOLEMY!
I'M
COMING
FOR YOU!



WHY DO WE
BRING A WOODEN
STAKE AND
A HAMMER,
O MY
QUEEN?

WAIT
AND
SEE!

THEY GAZE DOWN UPON THE
SLEEPING COUNTERFACE OF
THE WARRIOR-KING OF EGYPT.

IT IS HER HAND THAT
DRIVES HOME THE
POINTED BLUNT!

SOME POLITY!
BUT, MY QUEEN,
HE LOOKS AS
OLD AS
TIME!

HE HAS
TAKEN UPON
HIMSELF AN
ETERNITY
OF EVIL!



THEN THERE
IS A BURST
OF ASTRAL
LIGHT!

A VOICE OF
THUNDER
RINGS
THROUGH
THE VAULTED
SEVERANCE!

THE QUEEN
ON HORSES
AND WHEELS
SLAYS
DEMONS
THEMSELVES...



SO PERISH ALL
WHO TURN THEIR
FACES FROM THE
SUN AND GAZE
UPON THE PLACES
OF DARKNESS!



THE RAM-HEADED
SUN-GOD OF EGYPT
SAVES UP THE
WARRIOR-QUEEN...

YOU, CHILD OF
THE EARTH, HAVE
FOUND RAYOR BY
DESTROYING HE WHO
DEFIED THE RAYS OF
LIGHT, AMUN-KA WILL
REWARD YOU.



AMUN-RA CAN-
NOT REMOVE
THE EVIL THAT
HAS ENTERED
YOU, BUT HE CAN
GRANT YOU A
HUMAN
DEATH!

AFTER YOU
HAVE PASSED
BEYOND, YOU
WILL BE
REINCARNATED
IN A WORLD BEYOND
THE STARS, WHERE
THE EVIL WITHIN YOU
WILL BE TRANSMUTED
INTO GOOD.
YOU WILL BE HAPPY
THERE, WHERE THE
SWEET RIVERS OF
BLOOD FLOOD THROUGH
VALLEYS OF DEEP
CONTENTMENT, AND
THE BLOOD-DRINKERS
KNOW NO PAIN, NO
GUILT, NO DESPAIR...
THIS PLACE
IS CALLED...
DRAKULON!

CLEOPATRA SAYS GOODBYE TO HER
FAVORITE SLAVE...

NO TEARS FOR
ME, MY FRIEND.
I'M GOING
TO A BETTER
PLACE. DID YOU
GET... IT?

IT'S IN THE
BASKET.
O MY
QUEEN...



WHEN I GET TO THE
OTHER PLACE... TO
DRAKULON... I
THINK I SHALL TAKE
THE NAME OF...
VAMPIRELLA!



YOU KNOW
WHAT I HAVE
IMMORTAL
LONGINGS
IN ME!



I
MUST
REMEMBER
HER DYING
WORDS! SUCH
LOVELY
SENTIMENTS
SHOULDN'T BE
LOST TO
POSTERITY!
POSTERITY
COULD USE
SENTIMENTS
LIKE
THESE!

THE SPIRIT OF SHE WHO H'D BEEN CLEOPATRA,
DAUGHTER OF THE PHAROAH, DESCENDANT OF
ALEXANDER, BEHELD AN ARABIAN, GIBSEN OF
KINGS, RISE FROM HIS EARTHLY BODY AND
DANCE ACROSS THE VOID OF BLACKNESS,
ACROSS THE TRACKLESS WASTES OF SPACE
AND TIME TO
NEW LIFE ON A
DISTANT WORLD.



TIME IS MEANINGLESS. NOW IS THE INSTANT
IN WHICH SHE LIVES. NOW SHE IS VAMPIRELLA,
THE DOLL WHO CAME FROM ROMANUCH... THE
MISTS CLEAR. SHE HAS THE TONGUE OF ETHERAL
IN HER MOUTHING... SHE OPENS HER EYES...



NO!
IT CAN'T
BE...
ANTONY!



ANTONYNI!
DOCTOR
ANTONYNI!...

...FROM
ROME!

YOU WERE IN A
TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.
YOU CAN
REMEMBERED.

FORTUNATELY NO
ONE WAS SERIOUSLY
HURT...YOU'VE BEEN
UNCONSCIOUS...AND
I SUSPECT DREAMING!

BUT YOUR
ALRIGHT. YOU'VE A
FRIEND WAITING
FOR YOU OUTSIDE!

WE WERE
THERE TOGETHER...
HER...ALL THOSE
CENTURIES
AGO, PONDY!

THERE HAD TO BE A BOND
BETWEEN US / I KNEW IT!
THERE HAD TO BE SOME REASON
WHY FATE BROUGHT US TOGETHER...
AND HAS KEPT US SO
CLOSE ALL THESE
YEARS!

YOU WENT...
WHERE? **EGYPT!**



VAMPI, MY DEAR...
IT LOOKS AS
THOUGH WE WERE
FATED TO STAY
INSEPARABLE!



PROLOGUE

AFTER THAT WONDERFUL MORNING, **NO ONE** HAD TO EAT STICKY, LUMPY CEREAL BECAUSE IT WAS "GOOD" FOR THEM.

AFTER THAT WONDERFUL MORNING, NO ONE HAD TO **COMB** THEIR HAIR, OR **BRUSH** THEIR TEETH, OR BE SURE THEY **WASHED** BEHIND THEIR EARS.

AFTER THAT WONDERFUL MORNING, THE WORLD WAS **CHANGING** FOR THEM. NOW IT WAS AN ENDLESS **VACATION**. NO MORE SCHOOL, NO MORE BORING HOMEWORK.

NOW EVE HAD LOTS OF TIME FOR FEEDING DOLLY. MORNING, AFTERNOON OR EVENING. ANYTIME OR ALWAYS. BUT IF DOLLY DIDN'T **FEEL** LIKE EATING...

... SHE WOULD **NEVER** BE PUNISHED THE WAY **THEY** HAD PUNISHED **HER**. NO, NEVER, NEVER. DOLLY WAS GOING TO BE JUST AS HAPPY AS **EVE** WAS...

... AND **TOMMY** WHO NO LONGER HAD TO SUFFER HIS PARENTS' EVER-CONSTANT FIGHTING...

... AND **MAGGIE**, WHO GOT TO THROW AWAY THOSE AWFUL BRACES THE DENTIST MADE HER WEAR.

YES, IT REALLY WAS A WONDERFUL MORNING.

NOW **CRICKETS** COULD
BE HEARD WHERE BE-
FORE THERE WAS ONLY
THE ANGRY DIN OF
TRAFFIC. NOW
BUTTERFLIES, LONG
DRIVEN BY DEADLY
EXHAUST FUMES
RETURNED TO FLUTTER
ABOVE NEW FLOWERS
AND GREENERY.



NOW BIRDS
WHEELED IN A
CLEAR SKY...



...UNTAINED
BY THE DARK
SMEAR OF
INDUSTRIAL
SMOKE...



...VOID OF THE
CHOKING SMELL
THE BITTER
STING OF
POLLUTION...



...FREE EVEN
OF THE GRIM
SHADOW OF
POSSIBLE
NUCLEAR
HOLOCAUST.



FOR **THESE** AND A HUNDRED OTHER REASONS, THIS, LIKE **ALL** MORNINGS NOW, WAS ..

A WONDERFUL MORNING!

STORY AND ART: FERNANDO FERNANDEZ / COLOR: RICH CORSEN

THE RIVERS AND STREAMS RAN
CLEAN, BUBBLED BRIGHTLY,
WITHOUT THE GREASE, THE SILT,
THE WASTE, **FISH** CAME AGAIN.

THE SEA ONCE MORE WAS TO **PLAY** IN, TO FROLIC
HAPPILY. OIL SLICKS DID NOT DARKEN THE WAVES,
GARBAGE DID NOT COVER THE SPARKLING BEACHES.



WHAT A
WONDERFUL
MORNING...

...WITHOUT
THEM.





THEY SAY
THERE'S ONE
LAST ADULT
HIDING SOME
PLACE.

AYWW! THAT
CAN'T BE SO...
WE'VE CLEANED
THEM ALL
AWAY!



I... I SAW
HIM... UP ON THE
MOUNTAIN!



CYMON,
THEN! WHAT
ARE WE
WAITIN'
FORT



LET'S
GET
HIM!

YEAH!
EVERYBODY...
COM'N!

WE
HAVE TO
FIND HIM...
CATCH
HIM!

A HUNT!
A HUNT!



THERE
HE IS!



AFTER
HIM!

CIRCLE
AROUND...
CUT HIM
OFF!

DON'T
LET HIM
ESCAPE!

NOW, EVERYBODY RAN.
RAN THROUGH THIS
WONDERFUL MORNING.



SO MANY YEARS OF HOPE
HAD PASSED UNFULFILLED.
BUT NOW THEY WERE FIN-
ALLY GETTING IT... A NEW
HUMANITY, FULL OF LOVE,

WITHOUT
AMBITION...
WITHOUT
WAR...

Without sex...



WITHOUT HATE...
WITHOUT GRUDGES...



Without violence...

FASTER,
FASTER! WE'RE
CLOSING IN!

HE'S
TIRING!
JUST A
LITTLE
MORE...

THEN
WE'LL
HAVE
HIM!



THE
CYCLOPEAN
EYE IN ITS
FORMICA CASE
ASSASSIN OF
CHILDHOOD
IMAGINATION...



... LAY MUTE
AND BLIND.
IT WAS NOT
NECESSARY TO
SPEND HOURS
AND HOURS IN
FRONT OF IT...



... AVOIDING
REALITY...



... BECAUSE
REALITY WAS
WONDERFUL!

EXCEPT...

THERE
WAS STILL
THE LAST
ONE.





I AIN'T GONNA
HURT YA. NOBODY'S GONNA
HURT *ANYBODY*
ANYMORE.

'CAUSE THEY JUST
CAUGHT 'IM... UP ON
THE MOUNTAIN, THE
LAST ONE...



PANTING,
CRINGING,
TERRIFIED...



SHAKING
BEFORE THOSE
HE MIGHT
ONCE HAVE
LAUGHED
AT...



RAGED AT,
SCREAMED AT,
BULLIED OR
IGNORED...



THOSE WHO
HOLD THE
POWER
ON THIS
WONDERFUL
DAY...



GIMME
A **BREAK**,
KIDS..!

Y-YOU
DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
DOIN'..!

I WAS
A KID ONCE
MYSELF..!

PLEASE!
DON'CHA
UNDER-
STAND..? I
CAN'T **HELP**
IT..!

YOU'RE
ALL GONNA
GROW UP
SOMEDAY,
TOO!

FR GOD'S
SAKE...LISTEN!
YA GOTTA LISTEN..!
PLEA--



HE **SCREAMED** LIKE ALL THE
OTHERS. HE WOULD **DIE**, EYES
STARING IN **DISBELIEF** LIKE
ALL THE OTHERS. AS ALWAYS,
THE GROWN-UPS JUST DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND...

THIS WAS
NECESSARY!



THERE WAS NO
ALTERNATIVE...

CHILDREN *HAD*
TO DO IT TO SAVE
THE WORLD...
THEIR WORLD.

THE LAST ECHO OF
THE LAST ADULT
ON *EARTH* FADED
INTO NOTHINGNESS.

AFTER
THIS DAY,
THE WORLD
WOULD KNOW
ONLY THE
SOUND OF
CHILDREN
LAUGHING...

THERE WERE NO
MORE GROWN-UPS.

AND THEY
WOULD
NEVER
PERMIT THE
ADULTS TO
COME
AGAIN...

NEVER
NEVER
NEVER
NEVER
NEVER

THE FIARA OF DAGON!

**ARKHAM
MUSEUM**

THE POLICE OF ARKHAM, MASSACHUSETTS STILL TALK ABOUT THAT DAY IN 1931... A DAY THAT BEGAN WITH A VISITOR TO THE LOCAL MUSEUM... A VISITOR THE CURATOR FOUND ALL TOO FAMILIAR...

WE MEET AGAIN, SIMON PEPPER, WITH HOPES HIGH THIS TIME FOR MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON ALL ASPECTS OF OUR DISPUTE.

THE ONLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT I WANT IS THE CONCLUSION OF YOUR BOTHERSOME VISITS. THE OBJECT YOU DESIRE IS SIMPLY NOT FOR SALE.

THE RITUAL FIARA OF THE PRIESTS OF DAGON... OF WHICH I AM ONE!

IT MAY HAVE BEEN YOURS AT ONE TIME, BUT I GOT IT QUITE LEGALLY FROM ONE OF THOSE FEDERAL AGENTS WHO RAN INSMOUTH BACK IN '28.

RAVING, YOU SAY! DON'T YOU MEAN INVADED, TERRORIZED, KILLED... ALL ON THE BASIS OF UNSUBSTANTIATED TALES OF FORTUNE AND MURDER?

UNSUBSTANTIATED PERHAPS... BUT NOT UNTRUE!



I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE NOW BEFORE
I HAVE TO SHOOT YOU FOR ATTEMPTING
TO STEAL THIS GOLD BAR FROM ME

THE GOLD BAR IS
COVERED WITH A
CHEMICAL THAT IS
ALREADY
ENTERING YOUR
BLOODSTREAM!

YOU HAVE DONE
THE EXPECTED
SIMON PEPPER
YOUR GREED HAS
UNBONE YOU

UNLESS YOU AGREE TO
TURN OVER THE TIARA
AND TAKE THIS ANTIDOTE
YOU WILL DIE

GET
OUT!

THE
PRIEST...!

I'D BETTER GET THIS
OUT OF VIEW BEFORE
SOMEONE STARTS
ASKING QUESTIONS

I TOLD
YOU TO--

BLAM

N-NOTHING...!
HE WASN'T
THERE!







TIME PASSED. WHEN THE MUSEUM RAILED TO *OPEN* THE NEXT DAY THE AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATED.



MEET COFFEE HEIRESS CHRISTINA KANAHAUGH
HAVING IT OUT WITH HUSBY JIM, THE PRESIDENT OF HER
LATE FATHER'S FIRM.



GOOD TO THE LAST DROP!



YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THIS, JIM KAVANAUGH... OR DID YOU? PERHAPS YOU RESENTED HER YOUTHFUL BEAUTY... AND YOUR PREMATURE AGE... JUST ENOUGH...

I KNEW MY...
BULL WRIGHT... LOUISY
LITTLE V.P. IN PRODUCT
IMPROVEMENT...

YES! SOMETHING HAPPENED
THAT MORNING... THAT MORN-
ING YOUR THOUGHTS NOW
TURN BACK TO...

...THAT MORNING YOU DISCOVERED
WRIGHT AND YOUR WIFE
ALONE IN HIS OFFICE!

CHRISTINA!
I'D SUSPECTED
SHE WAS HIDING
SOMETHING
LATELY...

BUT LAUGHED
MY SUSPICIONS OFF
AS RAVINGS... MY
OWN INSANE
JEALOUSY! BUT
NOW...

HURT, ENRAGED, YOU QUIETLY
RETURNED TO YOUR OFFICE,
PLANNING YOUR NEXT MOVE...
FAILING TO HEAR CHRISTINA
SAY...

I DON'T
CARE IF YOU DO
GO AHEAD WITH IT,
BULL! I WON'T
DO IT!!

I... I'M SORRY
I EVER GOT
INVOLVED WITH
YOU IN THE FIRST
PLACE!

YOU BUSIED YOURSELF WITH
YOUR DUTIES AS PRESIDENT
OF MILLER FOODS... SUCH
AS THE EXHIBIT FOR
GUIDED TOURS IN THE
NEW WING...

IT'S A GREAT MOOD-
UP OF THE VACUUM
PUMPS WE USE TO
FREEZE-DRY COFFEE,
MR. KAVANAUGH! AND
IT WORKS!

THE SCHOOL KIDS WHO
COME THROUGH HERE TO
LEARN HOW COFFEE IS
MADE WILL LOVE IT!

VERY GOOD,
FEARBOY!
EXCELLENT!

AT HOME, YOUR WIFE SAW
RESTLESS, WATCHING YOU,
YOUR MOOD AS GLAD AND
SILENT AS THE COFFEES YOU
SIPPED EACH MORNING...

HE HADN'T SPOKEN
TO ME ALL WEEK! /
HE MUST KNOW
SOMETHING! I'M
SURE OF IT!



THEN YOUR GUEST, SEETHING
RAGE, FINALLY DRUPTED INTO
ARGUMENT, AND YOU
TURNED ON CHRISTINA ..

NO, JIM,
NO! KEEP AWAY
FROM ME!

NOW SHE'S DEAD! MAYBE YOU DIDN'T MEAN
THIS TO HAPPEN, JIM... BUT IT HAS! AND YOU
FEEL... NOT REGRET? BUT MORE UNCONSCIOUSLY
AS TO HOW YOU'LL DEAL WITH IT? UNTIL

I'VE GOT IT!

THE MOST EVIL
IDEA I'VE EVER HAD! IT
MIGHT NOT WORK!
BUT, THEN AGAIN...

YOU
LITTLE,
NO-GOOD--

YOUR BELLY TIGHTENS WITH PANGS OF
EXCITEMENT... AND FEAR... AND
REVELATION... AS HURRIBLY, REVERSHLY,
YOU JIM POOR CHRISTINA'S LIFELESS
FORM INTO THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL!

THERE GOES THE ARM... GOOD!
HEAD'S TOO BIG... HAVE TO
CHOP IT! BUT THE LEGS'LL
GO DOWN EASY...



SOON, YOU ARE STUFFING THE
PIECES OF HER BODY INTO
PLASTIC BAGS, AND THINKING
OF... VENGEANCE!

HEHEHE... NICE LITTLE
CHUNKS! JUST PERFECT
FOR WHAT I HAVE IN
MIND.



HERE YOU GO,
MY DEAR! INTO THE
COP-FREEZER!

SLEEP WELL...
AT LEAST UNTIL
MORNING!

COME MORNING, YOU CLAIM THE
FROZEN REMAINTS IN THEIR
AIR-TIGHT PLASTIC BAGS
THROW IT INTO YOUR CAR
DRIVE TO THE PLANT BEFORE
IT GROWS...

...AND STEAL INSIDE... TO THE
NEW WING... WITH THE
DISMEMBERED CORPSE!

YOU PLACE THE CHUNKS OF FROZEN FLESH AND BONE INTO THE GIANT VACUUM PUMP'S BELL-JAR...

...AND WHAT REMAINS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE GIANT BELL-JAR IS THE VERY LAST OF CHRISTAL...

WUUUMPPP!

...AND ACTIVATE IT!

...HED FREEZE-DRIED REMAINS!

...WHICH YOU BATHER UP INTO A JAR...

GOTTA HURRY HOME! I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT THIS AFTERNOON... WITH A VERY VERY SWEET REVENGE!

THAT AFTERNOON YOU MAKE THE NECESSARY PHONE-CALL... AND THEN...

WITING BILL WRIGHT OVER HERE FOR COFFEE WAS A MASTER STROKE

HE'LL BE AGGRIEVED TO LEARN WHAT HE'S DRINKING... THAT IS IF I DECIDE TO TELL HIM. / HEN HEN HEN.

...AND AN HOUR LATER...

HERE YOU GO, WRIGHT. HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE!

THANK YOU, MRS. KAWAUBA!

I MUST SAY YOUR INVITATION WAS A... SURPRISE! DID YOU, UH... WANT ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR?

FROZEN-DRIED COFFEE



WRIGHT... YOU'RE OUR YOUNGEST UP-AND-COMING **EXECUTIVE!** YOU'RE YOUNG, AND **BRIGHT!** WELL, I HAVE A **TERRIBLE PROBLEM** I THOUGHT YOU'D **HELP** ME SOLVE!

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, SIR.

TURN... AROUND, JIM KAGANAWA... AND WILSON WRIGHT.



...AS HE UNWITTINGLY **REVERSES** THE TRAY... **SWITCHING** THE CUP WITH CHRISTINA'S DISCOURAGED REMAINS... SO THAT HE CAN GET AT THE **SUGAR!**



IT'S MY WIFE... SHE'S BEEN **MISSING** FOR TWO DAYS!

MISSING?

I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE!



...AND SUDDENLY, JIM, YOU NOTICE THE **SWITCH!**

YES! IT'S VERY **STRANGE!** NONE OF HER THINGS ARE GONE... SHE JUST... SHE... SHE...

MY GOD! HE... HE **SWITCHED CUPS!** INSTEAD OF MY OWN "PERKED", I'VE BEEN DRINKING THAT **FREEZE-DRI--**
:-GAAAKK!:-



IT IS THEN THAT YOU FEEL THE STIRRING IN YOUR GUT, JIM... THE **KNISSSES!** NOT MERELY REGRESSION AT THE THOUGHT OF WHAT YOU'VE DRUNK, BUT SOMETHING **ELSE!**

ARE YOU ALL **RIGHT** SIR?

I-YES... JUST A LITTLE **WEAK!** THE **STRAIN...** OF THE PAST FEW DAYS... HAS BEEN **EXHAUSTING!**

THERE'S A BOTTLE, OF **BLUE PILLS** ON THE SHELF OVER THE SINK... **BRING** THEM TO ME, WOULD YOU?

FEEL... **SURE!** BUT IT'S A GOOD **EXCUSE...** TO GET HIM... OUT OF THE ROOM...



THAT'S **RIGHT**, JIM... AS SOON AS WRIGHT LEAVES THE ROOM...

I'LL JUST SWITCH THESE AROUND **AGAIN...** SO HE GETS HIS JUST... "**DISSERT!**"



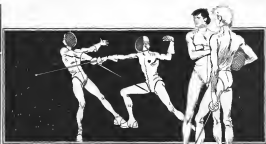


IN THE MINUTES BEFORE YOU STRUCK YOUR FATAL BLOW POOR, FRIGHTENED, PRESSURED CHRISTINA MADE GOOD HER THREAT



TENSION...... COLD, HEAVY, OPPRESSIVE. IT HUNG IN THE AIR LIKE A THICK **FOG**, BROKEN ONLY BY THE CLASH OF **STEEL BLADES**.

TO THOSE OF US WHO GREW UP IN **WINDLOW'S FERRY**, THESE SOUNDS WERE FAMILIAR. **WEDNESDAY** NIGHT FENCING SEMINARS HAD BECOME A SORT OF **PUBERTY RITE** WHICH STUDENTS OF BOTH SEXES HAD TO ENDURE AS PART OF THE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM.



HEY MIKE! DIDN'T STEPHANE SUPPOSE TO MEET YOU HERE TONIGHT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING HER TO THE MOVIES AFTER CLASS!



THE CLAMOR OF STEEL GREW LOUDER, **FASTER!** THE CONTEST BUILT TO FEVERED **INTENSITY!** EVEN IN A SMALL TOWN LIKE THIS, THE DESIRE FOR COMPETITIVE **MASTERY** INCITED A CERTAIN SENSE OF **PASSION...**

...PASSION WHICH REACHED ITS INEVITABLE **CLIMAX!**

TOUCHE!



NICE JOB, WALT! YOUR DEFENSE HAS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY!

THANKS, JEFF! I'D HATE TO THINK ALL MY HOURS OF PRACTICE WERE GOING TO WASTE!



I WAS! IT ISN'T LIKE HER TO BE LATE!

PRACTICE CAN NEVER GO TO WASTE, SON! THROUGH PRACTICE, WE REACH PERFECTION...



AND THROUGH PERFECTION WE REACH... **IMMORTALITY!**

ALEXANDER DEATH MAY HAVE BEEN A WHIZ OF A SWORDSMAN BUT IN MOST OTHER RESPECTS, HE WAS A **WASHOUT!**

HE CAME TO OUR TOWN ABOUT A MONTH AGO, AFTER THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REALIZED THERE'D BE A SURPLUS IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET. **FENCING** HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BIG SPORT IN WINDLOW'S FERRY...

...SO IT SEEMED NATURAL THAT THEY PUT THE MONEY TOWARD HIRING THE BEST INSTRUCTOR THEY COULD **BUY!** ALEXANDER DEATH'S REPUTATION MADE HIM THE PRIME CANDIDATE...

...AND HE WASN'T HARD TO **BUY!**

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SAT BACK, SHUS AND SELF-SATISFIED BUT THE STUDENTS HAD **OTHER** SENTIMENTS. THERE WAS SOMETHING **DYSTASTEFUL** ABOUT THE MAN...SOMETHING **HIDDEN**...SOMETHING **EVIL**.

SWORDPLAY

CALL IT **ATTENTION** OR CALL IT **ADOLESCENT FANTASY** BUT WE RESPECTED HIM A LITTLE AND TRUSTED HIM **LESS**.

SAM: ISN'T THAT STEPHANIE'S CAR OVER THERE?

IT SURE IS! SO SHE **DID** COME HERE AFTER ALL...BUT IF SHE'S HERE, WHY DIDN'T SHE GO TO CLASS?

MAYBE SHE MET SOME HANDSOME **FOOTBALL JOCK** AND THEY DECIDED TO **ELOPE!**

BE SERIOUS, B.J. / YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT STEPHANIE DOESN'T **LIKE** FOOTBALL!

I DUNNO, MIKE / ONE GOOD PASS AND YOU MIGHT BE OUT OF THE **GAME!**



IF SHE DIDN'T GO TO THE CHURCH BASEMENT WITH THE REST OF US, THEN SHE MUST HAVE GONE TO THE **SCHOOL** NEXT DOOR!

OTHERWISE SHE WOULD HAVE TAKEN HER **CAR**!

YOU'RE **RIGHT**, MIKE! THERE'S A **LIGHT** UPSTAIRS... SHE MAY HAVE GONE UP THERE!

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BE **PROWLING AROUND** LIKE THIS! IF MR. JENNINGS FINDS US IN THE SCHOOL AFTER HOURS, HE'LL PROBABLY CALL THE **POLICE**!

MAYBE YOU DON'T MIND GOING THROUGH THAT **HAGGLE**, BUT I'M **ALREADY** ON PROBATION!



NEXT DOOR IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT, THE SEMINAR CONTINUED AS USUAL. **B.J.** AND **I** WERE BEGINNING TO HIGHLY **ENJOY** OUR **STAYED** THERE...

IF WE HAD, WE MIGHT HAVE SEEN ALEXANDER DEROTH **SMILE**, WHICH WAS A **RARE** OCCURRENCE IN ITSELF! BUT EVEN **MORE** TO OUR **LIKING** WOULD HAVE BEEN THE **GIRL** WHO ELICITED THE **RESPONSE**...

YOU'RE **NEW** IN MY CLASS, AREN'T YOU? I'M SURE I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED SUCH A **LOVELY** **FACE**!

YES...MY NAME'S **BRENDA HALEY**! I'VE JUST MOVED HERE FROM THE **MIDWEST**!



BY DAY WINGLOW'S FERRY HIGH SCHOOL IS ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF HURRIED FEET SCUFFLING THROUGH ITS CORRIDORS. BUT BY **NIGHT**, EACH SINGLE STEP ECHOES HOLLOWLY AND SEEMS TO LINGER, WAITING FOR THE **NEXT** AFTER A WHILE, YOU **WAIT** FOR THAT SOUND... **LOOK FORWARD** TO IT...

...BECAUSE THE **SILENCE** IS **MADDENING**!



HEY **B.J.**, HOW ARE WE GONNA FIND **STEPHANIE** WHEN I CAN'T EVEN SEE **YOU**...?

...AND YOU'RE ABOUT A FOOT **AWAY**!

EASY **MIKE**! I BROUGHT A **FLASHLIGHT**...

BUT IT'S SO **DARK** IN HERE I CAN'T EVEN FIND **THAT**!

THEY HAD ALL SEEN THE GLINT IN MR. DEROTH'S EYES BEFORE.

IT APPEARED WHEN HIS THOUGHTS WERE ON LITHE GRACE-FULL, FEMININE FLESH...EYES THAT SPOKE OF LUST AND HIDDEN HUNGERS...

YOU HANDLE YOURSELF WELL, BRENDA!



WITH A LITTLE CLOSE TRAINING...AND PERSONAL ATTENTION...YOU COULD BE ONE OF MY BEST PUPILS!

SORRY, MR. DEROTH! I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR CLOSE TRAINING WITH FEMALE STUDENTS!

I'LL JUST STICK TO THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES. THANK YOU!



A PITY! I HAVE OTHER WEAPONS IN MY HOME WHICH YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING! IF YOU COULD HANDLE THOSE AS WELL AS YOU HANDLE THAT SWORD, IT COULD PROVE...STIMULATING!

I'M AFRAID NOT! I LIKE TO CHOOSE MY OWN WEAPONS!



DEEPER AND DEEPER WE PENETRATED THE DARKENED SCHOOL'S WALLS. SEEMED LIKE ANCIENT CHRISTIAN CATHEDRALS... MUSTY, UNLESS...SUDDENLY WE FROZE!

ALRIGHT! WHAT ARE YOU BOYS BOWING IN HERE?



MR. JENKINS, IT'S US! MIKE AND B. J.!

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! I STILL WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE AT THIS HOUR!

WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR STEPHAN STAFFORD! I THOUGHT SHE MY HAVE FORGOTT SOMETHING AND CAME BACK HERE TO...

HEY, B. J.! LOOK!



IN THE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM, ALL HAD GROWN QUIET. THE MORE PERCEPTIVE STUDENTS HAD NOTICED A SUBTLE CHANGE IN ALEXANDER DEROTH FOLLOWING THE EXCHANGE WITH BRENDA HALEY. THE SLOWER ONES NOTICED IT LATER...WHEN HE DEMONSTRATED A NEW MANEUVER. HE TOOK WALT KINNEY AN AVERAGE FENCER TO ASSIST HIM...AND IN THREE SWIFT MOVES...WAS VANQUISHED BY HIS STUDENT! THAT'S WHEN EVERYBODY KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG!



IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, CLASS I'D LIKE TO WIPE THE SWEAT FROM MY FACE... I...I...

SERIOUSLY WRONG!

THE BROOM CLOSET SMELLED OF YESTERDAY'S TRASH. BUT IT WAS DARK, SECLUDED... **PRIVATE**. THOSE WERE THE QUALITIES THAT LURED DEROTH TO ITS CLUTTERED CONFINES.



OH, EXCUSE ME, MR. DEROTH! I WAS--



YOU DIDN'T LOOK AT ALL **WELL**. OUT THERE! I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE **ILL**, SO I CAME BACK TO SEE IF I COULD **HELP**!



THERE WAS SOMETHING **THERE**, IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM, HULDED UP LIKE AN ARMADILLO. WE COULDN'T **SEE** IT... NOT **CLEARLY** ANYWAY... BUT SOMEHOW I **SENSED** WHAT IT WAS TO **BE**! SO DID B.J., CAUSE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE WAS LIKE NOthin' I'd EVER SEEN BEFORE!

I **KNOW** YOU **COULD**!

WHEN DEROTH CAME BACK TO HIS CLASS, HE WAS HIS CALM, SARDONIC SELF. IT WAS A **SHAME**. FOR THAT BRIEF MOMENT BEFORE, HE REELED ALMOST **HUMAN** AND THE STUDENTS ACTUALLY **FEELT** SOMETHING FOR HIM BESIDES **REVULSION**.

BUT THAT MOMENT HAD **PASSED**...
...AND LIKE **MOST** FLEETING MOMENTS, IT COULD NEVER BE **RECALLED** AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT, CLASS! AGAIN I WILL ATTEMPT TO **PSYCHOTRANZ** A **DOUBLE-DISENAGE**!



THE TENSION HAD SETTLED AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME IT WAS DIFFERENT. IT WENT BEYOND THE MERE EXCITEMENT OF TWO MEN LOCKED IN SWIFT COMBAT...IT TOUCHED SOMETHING SO COLD, SO PREGNANT WITH LATENT MENACE...IT EXCEEDED DESCRIPTION! AND ITS SOURCE LAY SOMEWHERE IN DEROOT'S EYES!

BRENDA IS GOING TO ASSIST ME IN THIS DEMONSTRATION!

SOMETHING IN HIS TONE OF VOICE, A BARELY PERCEPTIBLE QUIVER OF EXCITEMENT...SEEMED TO AMUSE THE TENSION! HAIT FELT AN URGENT DESIRE TO SHOUT... TO STOP THIS THING BEFORE IT BEGAN!

BUT HE DIDN'T!

EN GARDE!

SWIFT FOLD SLICED THROUGH THE AIR PROBING, CASTING, RETREATING. THEIR SWINGING BECAME LIKE A MELODY, REACHING ITS CRESCENDO IN A FRENZIED BLUR OF SILVER SOUND. SUDDENLY...

WAIT, MR DEROOT! YOUR SWORD...



THE PROTECTIVE RUBBER TIP IS MISSING!

TOUCHE!

MEANWHILE, OUR LIGHT BOUGHT OUT THE DARKEST CORNERS OF THE SCHOOL, IT BOUGHT OUT ANSWERS...ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS NEITHER B.J. NOR MR JENNINGS NOR MYSELF DARED TO WHISPER ALOUD AND FINALLY IT STOPPED SEEKING!



IT FOUND!

STEPHANE!



OH-MY NECK... IT'S BLEEDING!

WITH ANSWERS, THERE'S INEVITABLY COME MORE QUESTIONS!

GOOD LORD... WHAT COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A THING!?

THOSE SCARS ON HER NECK... LIKE SOMETHIN' OUT OF A MONSTER MOVIE!



BRENDA'S SLENDER ANKLES WENT INSTINCTIVELY TO HER **THROAT**. SHE FELT THE **WARM BLOOD TRICKLE** SLOWLY GENTLY OVER HER FLESH...AND FELT THE **EYES** OF ALEXANDER DEATH UPON HER!

HE GAVE NO **THOUGHT** TO THE STUDENTS WHO LOOKED ON IN **HORROR**, **PARALYSED** BY THEIR FEAR. HE GAVE NO **THOUGHT** TO THE FACT THAT TOMORROW HE WOULD HAVE TO **ALICE** WINSLOW'S FERRY...



HE GAVE NO **THOUGHT** TO ANYTHING EXCEPT BRENDA'S SOFT TENDER **THROAT** AND THE **RICH** **BLOOD** THAT **HUSHED** GRADUALLY DOWNWARD...



DEATH RICHED FORWARD AND THOSE DEMON-EYES BECAME A **SMOLDERING** IMPERIAL OF **DESIRE**...OF **LUST**...OF **BLOOD-THIRST!**



MIKE AND I DIDN'T SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO BRENDA OF COURSE BUT NEXT DOOR IN THE SCHOOL WE **EMPATHIZED** WITH WHAT SHE MUST HAVE FELT...



FOR AT THAT MOMENT THE **CORPSE** OF STERNHANE STAFFORD BEGAN TO **BREATHE**, TO **MOVE**, TO **RISE**, TO **THIRST**...



THAT WAS THE **END** OF OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT FENCING SEMINARS. THE LAST SESSION HAD **DECREASED** THE **POPULATION** OF WINSLOW'S FERRY BY **FIVE**...FOUR STUDENTS, AND A FENCING INSTRUCTOR WHO VANISHED UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES; AND IN A TOWN THE SIZE OF **OWNS**, SUCH A SITUATION COULD BE **CONSIDERED CRITICAL!**

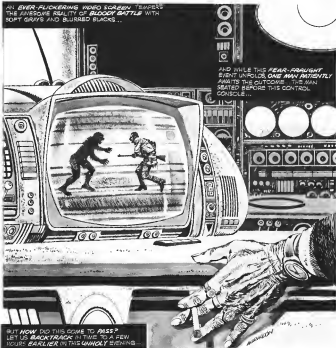
THAT'S WHY B.J. AND I HAVE **LEFT** WINSLOW'S FERRY ...THERE JUST WASN'T ENOUGH TO GO **AROUND!**



READY FOR A BANGUINE SAG?
GANG? THIS TALE CONCERNS A *WOLFEY*
MILLIONAIRE WHO LIVES TO RAISE A
SPECIAL BREED OF WOLF A HORROR-
HOBBY THAT GUARANTEES...

PREY FOR ME!

AN EVER-FLICKERING WORD SCREEN TEMPER
THE AWESOME REALITY OF *BLOODY BATTLE* WITH
SOFT GRAYS AND BLURRED BLACKS...



AND WHILE THIS *FEAR-BRAUGHT*
EVENT UNFOLDS, ONE MAN PATIENTLY
AWAITS THE OUTCOME... THE MAN
SEATED BEFORE THIS CONTROL
CONSOLE...

BUT NOW DID THIS COME TO *MISS?*
LET US *BACKTRACK* IN TIME TO A FEW
HOURS *EARLIER* IN THIS *WOLFEY* EVENING...

WHEN A CLEVERLING LINGUINE ADDRESS IT A
SOLICITED AMBIVISION IN THE A-DRESS-ONS

ANOTHER
ONE, MR.
GULEFORD?

CORRECT, AMORR? OUR ILLUSTRIOUS
GUEST IS SAMUEL
SMITH, TEXAS OIL
KINGPIN... AND PART-
TIME MURDER!

SEE THAT HE
IS MADE...
COMFORTABLE!

DINNER HAS BEEN
DELAYED, MR. SMITH.
PERHAPS IN THE
MEANTIME YOU
WOULD ENJOY...
A DRINK?

SOULD ON,
HUH FRIGHT ANCE
OF YUH, BOY?

HERE'S MUD
...AND ALL
THAT!

MUH HEAD...
EVERYTHIN'S
SPINNIN'...!

I THUH...!

BLASTED
DRINK... MUST'VE
BEEN DRUGGED!

BUT AFTER A BRIEF INTERLUDE OF NOTHINGNESS,
HE SLOWLY AWAKENS TO FIND...

MUH CLOTHES!
THEY'RE DIFFERENT!
IS THIS SOME DAMN
PRANK?!

I CAN
ASSURE YOU,
MY DEAR
SMITH... THIS IS
NO JOKE!

THERE IS A NAMELESS BLANK SPOT AT
THIS POINT FOR THE BUSY TRAXAL...





BUT HOW
THOUGHTLESS
OF ME!
INTRODUCTIONS
ARE IN ORDER!

THE RATHER
LARGE GENTLEMAN
AT YOUR SIDE...IS
MY LOYAL SERVANT,
NADIR...



... I, OF COURSE,
AM ALEXANDER
GILFORD THE
ENGINEER...



AND DIRECTLY BELOW
IS THE INSTRUMENT OF
YOUR IMPENDING DEATH!

HHHHHHMMMM
GROWL-L-L



T-THAT CENTER...!
IT LOOKS LIKE A
WEREWOLF!

ALL WILL BE EXPLAINED
IN DUE TIME / NADIR / AND
OUR ANIMAL HUNTING
FRIEND HIS EQUIPMENT!

THE RIFLE CONTAINS
ONE SHELL, MR.
SMITH... A SILVER
BULLET. IT WILL BE
YOUR SOLE WEAPON...

I TRUST
YOU ARE
ACQUAINTED
WITH ITS USE.



HE
KNOWS,
NADIR...

THE **WOLF-PON** IS EMPLOYED IN THE
SENSELESS DESTRUCTION... OF
LIVING THINGS.

HARLESS CREATURES
THAT OUR MARCHED GUEST
HAD VICTIMODICALLY
TRACKED, HUNTED
AND **SLAIN!**"

BUT TONIGHT
MY DEAR SMITH THE
TABLES WILL BE
TURNED... THE
ODDS SUBTLY
ALTERED.

TONIGHT IT
IS THE WOLF-
MAN WHO SHALL
BE HUNTER...
AND YOU THE
PREY.

HOWEVER, JUST
TO MAKE THINGS
SLIGHTLY...
INTERESTING... THE
WEREWOLF HAS
BEEN GIVEN YOUR
SCENT.

I AM AFRAID,
MY DISTINGUISHED
FRIEND, THE BEAST WILL
ZEALOUSLY STALK
YOU EVERY INCH OF
THE 'WAY.

IT'S ALL QUITE
SIMPLE... YOU
HAVE SIXTY
SECONDS TO
REACH THE
SURROUNDING
ESTATE / FREEDOM
LIES BEYOND...

LET ME GO,
SUNFORD... OR YOU'LL
BLOW THIS BOY'S
BRAINE OUT!





NADIR HAS BEEN A LOYAL, TRUSTWORTHY EMPLOYEE... I'LL MISS HIM WHEN YOU PULL THE TRIGGER... I WILL RELEASE THE WEREWOLF!

SO! A SINGLE BULLET FOR MY SERVANT... OR THE MONSTER? THE CHOICE, SIR, IS YOURS.



AND IN CASE YOU'RE HAVING OTHER THOUGHTS... DON'T TRY TO SLAY ME! THIS SPECIALLY-CONSTRUCTED WINDOW IS BULLET-PROOF!

DAMN MAN, GUNFORD! RUN WITH!



I ALWAYS DO!
YOU HAVE SIXTY SECONDS, STARTING NOW! GOOD LUCK, MR. SMITH, AND GOOD HUNTING!



SO... DESPERATE MAN FLEES FOR HIS LIFE... AS MANY OWNERS HAVE DONE BEFORE HIM!



AND ONE MINUTE SNIFFLY FLIES...

HUMMMMMMM

SNAP-L-L-L!

GAWD! THERE
RE...! STANDIN'
AROUND... TRYIN'
TUH GIT ITS
BEARINGS!

WITH LUCK...
AH MIGHT BEABLE
TUH PICK IT
OFF!

AWW! NOT
SHUFF! EIGHT TUH
DRAW A BEAD...
CAN'T GIT A
CLEAR SHOT!



HAVE TUH
MAKE A BLASTED
RUN FOR IT...WITH
THAT THING
LICKIN' AT MUH
HEELS!



MEbbe AH CAN
THROW THE CRITTER
OFF MUH TRAIL... BY
CAROLIN' BACK TUH
THE HOUSE!



NO ONE CAN
COMPREHEND THE
SWEEPING IMAGIN
I FEEL NAH! THE
SHEER THRILL OF
TOTAL POWER...

PUNISHING
THOSE WHO WOULD
WANTONLY KILL
GOD'S BEASTING
CREATIONS!

SHUFF!
SHUFF-P-F!





I KNOW, MR. GULEFORD!
I HAVE READ IT ON YOUR FACE
MANY TIMES SINCE THAT DAY
YOUR WEALTH SAVED ME
FROM BEING EXECUTED
FOR THE MURDER OF A
POACHER IN MY
HOMELAND.

BUT WE MUST
HAVE CARE THAT
IN SERVING THE
CAUSE OF A GOD
... WE DO NOT
USURP HIS RIGHTFUL
POWER!



MY SIDE IS
BURNING... LUNGS
FEEL ON FIRE! CAN
BARELY TAKE
ANOTHER ST--

WAIT!
THAT GARDENER'S
SHACK!



JUST WHAT
THE DOCTOR
ORDERED!

BET AN CAN
FIND SOME
BLASTED ROPE...
AN' CLIMB THE
BLAZES OUT OF
HERE!



CREAK-K-K



PLASTIC
CLOTHESLINE!



STUFF IS WEAR...
BUT IT'LL HOLD MY
WEIGHT LONG
ENUFF...





"UNFORTUNATELY, I FEAR THE SHOT DID NOT COME SOON ENOUGH TO PREVENT THE BEAST FROM REVENGING HIM BEFORE IT DIED."



NO! YAAHHH!

...AS AN INFECTIOUS BITE IS ABOUT TO BE INFLICTED...

RAZOR-CRUEL CLAWS CUT DEEP WITH HANDLESS FURY...



...THE ACCURSED BITE OF THE WEREWOLF!



HURRY, PLEASE... BEFORE THE MYST-SHROUDED MOON REAPPEARS TO TRANSFORM OUR LACERATED GUEST.

INTO A WOLF-LIKE BEING LIKE THE ONE THAT BIT HIM?



BUT THE GIGANTIC SERVANT DOES NOT NEED ORDERS TO WORK WITH THE UTMOST SPEED!



HE IS ALL TOO AWARE OF THE TREMBLING FORM... AS IT BEGINS TO SHIFT TO SOMETHING **OTHER** THAN HUMAN... IN THE RE-EMERGING LUNAR LIGHT!

IT IS FINALLY OVER, NADIR!

RETRIEVE THE TEXAN'S GUMBOCORE BODY FOR ME...

THIS IS ALMOST
BETTER THAN SEEING
THE BEAST RIP **ARM**
TO SHREDS.

DO YOU NOT FIND
IT **IRKING**, NADIR?
STILL **ANOTHER** HUNTERS
SHALL SOON PERISH...
AT **MR. SMITH'S**
HAND?

NADIR...?

I AM
RIGHT **HERE**?
I THOUGHT YOU
WANTED LIKE TO
TOAST YOUR
SUCCESS?

NO,
MR. GULFORD
TO THE RIGHTS
OF **ARM**...

...AND
GODS.

ARM? THANK
YOU / LET US DRINK
DEER, NADIR...

...TO
LIFE!

W-WHAT...?
NADIR... WHY
DO I...

...SO...
SUDDENLY...
FEEL...

UHHH!?

THERE IS AN UNKNOWNLY LARGE
IN TIME, UNTIL...

UNNN! MUST
HAVE **SLACKED
OUT!** TOO MUCH
PRESSURE AND...

**THESE
CLOTHES!!**
NAGRI! WHAT IS
THE MEANING
OF THIS?!



IT IS AS I SAID,
MR. GUILFORD! YOU
HAVE GROWN TO LOVE
PLAYING GOD... TOO
MUCH! I HAVE READ
IT IN YOUR FACE.

EVEN TONIGHT
WHEN IT WAS MY
LIFE IN THE BALANCE
AS WELL AS THOSE
WE CONDEMN
TO BE
HUNTED!



YOU HAVE
PLAYED LIKE ONE
OF THE GODS...
NOW TRUST YOUR
SOUL TO THEM!
YOU HAVE **SIXTY
SECONDS!**

NAGRI!
DON'T! I HAVE
MONEY! WE
CAN--

**FIFTY-
EIGHT
SECONDS!**



BEING IS USELESS! TO
DESPERATE MAN
PLEAS FOR HIS LIFE... AS
MANY OTHERS HAVE DONE
BEFORE HIM!



THE SOLEMN **BLACK** CANNOT
JUDGE HIS ACTIONS AS RIGHT
OR WRONG...

WE CAN ONLY MATCH!



...AND AFTER HAVING WATCHED...



...HE CAN ONLY LEAVE...



...AND PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF A
DOOMED MAN! A MAN NAMED
GUILFORD!



PROLOGUE

SINCE THE END OF THE 17TH CENTURY THIS THEATRE HAS EXISTED, ATTRACTING CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE, ALL SEDUCED BY THE ART OF... THE PUPPET-PLAYER.



THESE ARTISTS TRAVELED FROM TOWN TO TOWN, DRAWING FASCINATED CROWDS IN PUBLIC SQUARES TO WITNESS PERFORMANCES BY THEIR COLORFUL CREATIONS, LIVING ON WHATEVER GRATUITIES THE SPECTATORS COULD PROVIDE...



AND SOME PROVIDED NONE AT ALL, FINDING MUCH THAT WAS **SHAMSTER** IN THE OFTEN GROTESQUE PUPPETS, REMINDED PERHAPS OF **FOLK TALES** OF EVIL ENIGMS AND HALPING CREATURES...

BUT MOST WERE DELIGHTED BY WHAT THEY SAW, IMPRESSED BY THE ARTISTRY OF THE MEN WHO LOVINGLY SCRIPTED ALL THE PLAYS, SEWED ALL THE COSTUMES, PASSIONATELY CARED FOR EVERY **ASPECT** OF THEIR UNIQUE CHARGES...



...GINO MALASPINA MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUCH A MAN. BUT HE DID WHAT HE DID WITHOUT FREEDOM, AND MOST CERTAINLY...WITHOUT LOVE.



FOR SOME TIME NOW, GINO HAD FELT IT GROWING WITHIN HIM... A HATRED OF THIS LIFE, A LONGING TO ESCAPE IT. MORE AND MORE IT SEEMED THE STRINGS SOUND HIM MUCH AS THE FIGURES ON THE OTHER END...



THESE BEATINGS GREW MORE SAVAGE EACH PERFORMANCE. BUT SUCH WAS THE BARKENESS OF THE TIMES, THAT AUDIENCES EASILY ACCEPTED THE CRUEL HUMOR...

INDEED, MANY FOUND ADDED ENJOYMENT.



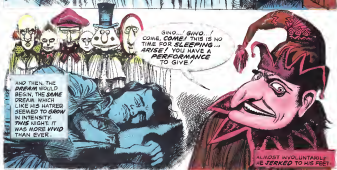


WELL, DEAR READER, AFTER THAT PROLOGUE, I DON'T BELIEVE WE'LL HAVE TO BEAT YOU OVER THE HEAD WITH THE FACT THAT THIS STORY DEALS WITH *MANIKINS* AND THEIR *MANIPULATORS*, OR *PUPPETS* AND THE...

PUPPET-PLAYER!



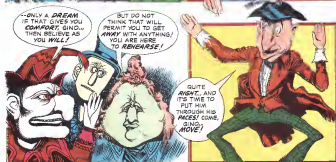
AFTER THE EVENING SHOW, GINO WOULD RETIRE TO HIS WAGON TO *REST*. TO THINK THOUGHTS OF THE DAY HE WOULD *ABANDON* THIS LIFE FOR A *BETTER* ONE... AND UNDER THE EVER-WATCHFUL GAZE OF THE PUPPETS, TO DRIFT FINALLY INTO UNEASY *SLEEP*.



GINO... GINO...
COME, COME! THIS IS NO
TIME FOR *SLEEPING*...
ARISE! YOU HAVE A
PERFORMANCE
TO GIVE!

AND THEN, THE
DREAM WOULD
BEGIN, THE SAME
DREAM, WHICH
LIKE HIS HATRED
SEEMED TO *GROW*
IN INTENSITY.
THIS NIGHT, IT
WAS MORE *WILD*
THAN EVER.

ALMOST INVOLUNTARILY
HE *JERKED* TO HIS FEET.



AGONY DROVE ALL THOUGHT FROM SIND'S MIND AS HE WAS PROPELLED FORWARD BY THE LAUGHING HORDE...

MARCH YOU GROTESQUE LITTLE MONSTERS... YOU WILL TEAR ME APART! THIS CAN NOT LAST FOR ALWAYS... I WILL AWAKE! THEN, IT WILL BE MY TURN TO JERK THE STRINGS!

FOR NOW IT IS OUR TURN, SIND!

AND YOU DELAY THE PERFORMANCE! MARCH, LITTLE PUPPET... ON TO THE THEATER!

SIND SCREAMED AS HE WAS FORCED TO ARRANGE AHEAD OF THE GIGGLING, CHITTERING MOB. UNTIL A SUDDEN, VIOLENT HEAVE...

...LIFTED HIM ONTO THE STAGE!

AGHHH!

P-PLEASE... WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO...? I DIDN'T MEAN WHAT I SAID BEFORE... I...





AND A NEW ONE SCRAMBLED UPON THE STAGE. THE ONE GINO HAD MADE SUFFER MOST... **PUNCHINELLO!**

DO NOT DESPAIR GINO. THOUGH USUALLY ON THE RECEIVING END... I ASSURE YOU I SHALL WIELD THIS MOST CREDIBLY!



LIKE A CRACKED JARREL, THE LEADING CAT TURE **SPANNING** WORTHLESS CHAOS AND CLASH

SEE, GINO, I'M NOT HAVING A BIT OF TROUBLE... BEATING THE LIFE OUT OF YOU!



AND WITH THE HARDEST BLOW OF ALL THE DREAM ENDED... IN A BLACKNESS LIKE DEATH.

SOME TIME LATER, IT WAS MOST **QUIET** IN THE PUPPET-PLAYER'S WAGON. GINO MALASPINA LAY SPRAWLED ANKWARDLY ON HIS BED, **BLOOD** FROM HIS BATTERED HEAD DRYING, TURNING THICK AND DARK...

THEY WOULD HAVE TO START **CLEANING** HIM SOON, PUNCHINELLO THOUGHT, BUT WITH SOME MAKE-UP OVER THE WOUNDS, THE BODY WOULD CERTAINLY BE FIT TO **USE** YET ANOTHER TIME, ONCE THEY CAST THE **SPELL** BRINGING IT TO LIFE AGAIN.

IT WAS A **SNAKE** THAT THE SPELLS **PRODUCED** QUICKER EACH TIME, ALLOWING THE HUMAN TO GRADUALLY BECOME **AWARE**... STILL, THIS WAS EASIER THAN CONSTANTLY BREAKING IN A **NEW** ONE TO PLAY PUPPET-MASTER.



AH, WELL! PERHAPS SOON WE **GHOMES** WILL HAVE ATTAINED SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO AGAIN ASSUME **DOMINATION** IN THIS WORLD... AND THESE SILLY **CHARADES** WILL NOT BE **NECESSARY!**

MEANTIME, GINO, I HOPE YOU DO NOT SO **SWIFTLY** FORGET OUR LITTLE PLAY'S **MORAL**... THAT IT IS **WE** WHO TRULY **HOLD** THE CLASP.

SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF BECAUSE YOU'RE MISSING...

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Thorne and his team, it is expected, will not be the only "hunter" at the 2001



Revised version is filed by the author. It has been approved by the Editor-in-Chief.

Various studies, by Magallon, found a
high level of biodiversity (2009, 2010)

DRACULA PAPERBACK NOVELS

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DIACIA HIRSH
Model shows the original
and the latest new
Cordoba 1000.



1. The first step is to identify the problem. In this case, the problem is that the system is not working properly.



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Journal of Internal Medicine 250: 453–460



INTERVIEW: BOB DODD Dodd was the editor of *Democracy* magazine. And is now in your library. ☎ 212-647-9500



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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Many thousands years ago, a great Prince of Egypt was buried above his subjects. To guard the great treasure of all the kingdoms, his tomb was the ancient stronghold of ages past among Khams, the fifth country. And to keep it stronger, the expedition that has drilled his final resting place, made in the name of Science. 403.102.112.72

CONCLUSIONS

May Butler's immortal creation lives again as an exciting bedtime story told there in the manner accepted by Dr. Frankenstein. Built from the cold remains of decayed corpses, this gothic-based grotesquely is the perfect companion to your literary monster fixation. This journal delves in the ways of this world. #2084

Age Group	Should Take Action (%)	Should Not Take Action (%)
18-29	85	15
30-49	85	15
50-69	85	15
70+	85	15

The men then sat, and the night
reads the abstract over the land.
Times it is for the ancient temple
known as, Great Britain to rise
knowing pass. Carefully attend
to the past about his grave
work, watching the victims from
where to drink through blood, a long
sister, Nigeria, east to the Nations
of Africa (www.1914-1918.org)

**THE CREATURE FROM
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THE FOLLOW-UP

[illegible]

[illegible]

PAPERBACK BOOKS BY BATHURNE AND ACKERMAN

[illegible][illegible]

TURN YOURSELF INTO A WOLFMAN

How you can wear the same styles, high quality in the appearance that was used to King Lee Chang in the all-around observation, The Western Style is your face with your own favorite a word, drug, alcohol or with every 2000 people, and continued below. And when the band added up to it, based on your face, using the phrases: Face For Available Below. You will be a suitable person.



**STICKS ON THE SKIN
TO MAKE LIPES & BUTTS**

[illegible]

**SELF-ADHESIVE WOLFMEAT
WOOL FOR HAIR OR FACE**



THESE TWO WHITE LIES COME ON TWO FEEL-
FABRICATIONS FROM MY VOYAGE OF SINCE

The legend of Sinbad the Sailor comes to vivid life in this magnificent motion picture. The four reels represent an hour's worth of swashbuckling thrills as Sinbad battles the creatures of legend. Special effects by the master of animation, Ray Harryhausen.

In order to locate the whereabouts of the unclaimed items, the tree contains an Oracle in the depths of a dark cave. When the team awakens, the star knows her. For it is an emergency. One of the most lightning Oracle ever seen by man. And when they prepare the information, the cave collapses on their heads. B/W • 22042-177 99, Col. 4, 2004-177 99.

United Negro College Fund, 1200 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10001. Call (212) 691-1000.

Suitcase and life sizes appear the choicest of the giant stokes in a museum most amazing And they move up to another danger in their quest for a mysterious crown of gold Only this change is even more perilous than the last a size size of majestic power and size Amazing B.W. STANLEY INC. COLOSAL CITY CA

Both Richard and the cast
tragicomic *Amos* were a
the major highlight of
which calls the golden
crowns. Both have laugh-
ing and hard to other
the good, and now they
must contend with other
Paul Kooze has an ad-
vantage & magic show
and sword. The same
makes him strong. He
says inevitable. R/W
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1/8 LIFE-SIZE, ALL-PLASTIC HOBBY HITS WITH MULTI-COLORED PLACES AND CHROME

EVIL-IRON TRIKE

It is a very complex and often frustrating process, but it is one that is essential for the success of any business. The first step is to identify the problem or opportunity that you want to address. This could be anything from a new product or service to a new market or a new way of doing business. Once you have identified the problem or opportunity, the next step is to research the market and the competition. This will help you to understand the needs of your customers and the strengths and weaknesses of your competitors. The third step is to develop a business plan. This is a document that outlines your business goals, your marketing strategy, your financial projections, and your organizational structure. The fourth step is to secure financing. This could be done through a variety of sources, including banks, venture capitalists, and angel investors. The fifth step is to launch the business. This is the point at which you begin to sell your product or service to the market. The final step is to monitor and evaluate the performance of the business. This will help you to identify areas for improvement and to make adjustments as needed.



**DRAGON-
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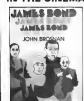
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